

UA Council Meeting Minutes 11/18/15

Attendance:

Daniel (LGC), Brant (IFC), Trevor (IFC), Jack (IFC), Katelyn (Pahhel), Taylor (Panhel), Kate (Simmons), Eric (Random), Paul (BC), Mandy (Baker), Sophia (VP), Matt (President), Alana (MacGregor), Alekhya (Treasurer), Robert (IFC), Sonia (EC), Sydney (Maseeh), Trey (New House), Aaron (Senior House), Mary (McCormick), Githui (Chief of Staff)

Approval of minutes from last meeting—unanimous

State of the UA Report:

We're sending an open letter to Dean Colombo and Tony Sheridan to ask about the New House pipe break; student faculty dinners—delay on deposit—Dean Freeman just deposited money so reimbursements are coming; Dean Freeman and career fair—moving towards making new committee to look at how we make career fair less course 6-centric and bring more diversity; spoke with Colombo about reaching 33% fossil fuel reductions goal and establishing new competitions for dorms in the future for meeting emissions levels; sent out audit; approached about Tech recording SLF meeting on Mon.—if you feel uncomfortable with something in the moment, I can't tell unless that is communicated with me. I highly encourage you to speak up or text Sophia during the meeting and will try to make this as comfortable of an environment as possible. And at any time you can call for a closed session.

Response to Trey's question: I will send out the timeline for the New House pipe burst after the meeting.

Call out Alberto—he helped create the new logo and is starring in the video byte we are now sending out every Monday.

Olivia: We're still looking for input on our operating procedures. I've gotten about no feedback, and we would like at least some feedback on that before proceeding.

UA Gov. Accountability Committee Vote:

I wanted to address Mary's comments on the document. On broad mission, I revised the language. The second thing was that the role of the chair was undefined or whether or not we need a chair—I took it out. Cross out part about chair at the end. Another thing, members are voted in at the second meeting. Do we want this committee to decide on/ be privy to things confidential for people outside of the UA? I think we do. I'd rather have 3 people bound by rules of confidentiality to give advice to council about these confidentialities. I would hope, and could not imagine, a council member sharing stuff willy-nilly. I retained the ability to remove councilors for doing things and if someone is removed, it shows disapproval of that action (i.e. breaking confidentiality).

Mary: Is there any way of ensuring that it would be 3 representative people (not all Panhel, IFC, 3 dorms) to make holistic decisions?

I think that will not really be an issue—Council is representative of many groups—so thinking the committee would be one panhel, one IFC, and one dorm rep. I don't want to write anything that specifies the individuals' groups to give flexibility and keep things as fair as possible.

Kate: Nominations taken on the floor at the first meeting?

Should be the second meeting.

Kate: What clauses are there to sanction council members?

I cannot remember off the top of my head, but I think to accept or reject.

Eric: I think this voting system will make people feel as though they have to vote as a block. If you put thought into this specific voting system...

My theory would be that that could happen under any voting system. Single transferrable vote is my personal preference.

Taylor: How much of what happened last year would have been up for grabs?

Our archives, etc.—everything—would be accessible to this committee. Even things admin has asked us to keep confidential. I would want this committee to review everything.

Taylor: How do you think this would affect your role with administrators?

I think it would be fine—I've talked to them about it.

Taylor: How is this not under JudBoards perview? Are they mutually exclusive?

Olivia: To my understanding, this group would be seeing things from admins. It would not be appeals about UA; it would not

Council is the oversight body for me. Under this, council now has financial records and can check over me.

Mary: Don't we have internal check for that? We can request financial records...

You can request them—it's reliant upon me being honest. They will have direct access to everything—the google drive, the financial records, etc. They won't have to go through me or Alex.

Sonia motions for vote. Trevor, Jack, Robert, Mary vote against. Brant, Taylor, Katelyn abstain. Motion passes.

BSU Presentation and Discussion: Rasheed Auguste

A lot of racially-charged incidents at other schools that have led to protests by large percentages of their student bodies. These schools generally don't have the opportunity to speak up here that we do, like here at the UA. People here (and at higher-level schools) understand a base level of freedom of speech and mutual respect for others. This doesn't exist at a lot of other institutions, or at the level we would like here at MIT. The actions coming out of these schools don't reflect issues here at MIT. We have a lot of agency here for minorities and students of color. Not always space to express ideas, etc. other than MIT confessions. Community conversations are our main idea for solutions to these problems. Flyers for "Ask a Black Person" handed out. Opportunity for black community and students to answer others' questions and give people an open form to express their ideas and experiences. Many offices conducive to this—creating spaces for students—but they aren't always utilized by people and the general MIT community. People don't generally offend others out of malice, but out of ignorance. So, cultivating these conversations is important and will help with diversity and community inclusion on campus. And learning to accept and respect others' beliefs—other schools don't have this opportunity so I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Big things to leave on/with: ICEO is conducting a series of community conversations within dorms—cultivating a space in dorm culture; BSU is always here; these opportunities are available to you; #s: currently ball-park 2% black faculty, 8-9% black undergrads, 3% black grads; 12-13% US population is black. MIT is a

space to express your ideas (in an organized and respectful way) and can come discuss, or listen and learn. These experiences are available and other minority groups are putting on similar events. Very valuable-- ICEO and Ed are putting on these conversations in the dorm.

Sonia: How do we start these conversations in our dorms? Should we reach out or will we be reached out to?

I would reach out to ICEO (Institute Community and Equity Office) and tell them you are interested in having one of these conversations in your dorm.

Matt: Is FSILG community open for that?

I'm sorry I didn't mention that. I think the ICEO would be willing to go across the river and start conversations in any living group.

Matt: Circling back, was anyone uncomfortable voting on this today? I will shoot this out, and comments or questions for this, and we will address questions, make amendments as necessary and revote next meeting.

Metropolitan Warehouse Dormitory Resolution: Yo Shavit
Closed Council

Paul moves to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.